

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01      GEORGE 00308 01 OF 02 102037Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----102041Z 129316 /41

O R 102000Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4179

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0308

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PURPOSE OF WILLS' TRIP TO CUBA

REF: GEORGETOWN 274

SUMMARY: THE MAIN POLITICAL PURPOSE OF FONMIN WILLS' RECENT EXCURSION TO CUBA, ACCORDING TO WILLS, HAD TO DO WITH GOG EFFORTS TO NEUTRALIZE ITS DOMESTIC OPPOSITION. WILLS CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED SOME SORT OF COMMITMENT OF CUBAN ASSISTANCE WITH THIS. DURING HIS TRIP HE MET WITH GUYANESE STUDENTS AND GDF TRAINEES. MORALE IN BOTH GROUPS IS LOW. HE ADMITTED TO NOT HAVING BEEN ABLE TO PICK UP ALL THE THREADS IN GUYANESE-CUBAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY ON MILITARY AND STUDENT MATTERS WHICH, HE SAID, HAD BEEN UNTIL NOW A ONE-MAN SHOW. END SUMMARY.

1. I WENT TO WILLS' OFFICE DURING THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 7 TO RESUME THE CONVERSATION WHICH HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02      GEORGE 00308 01 OF 02 102037Z

INTERUPTED THE PREVIOUS SATURDAY (REFTEL). OUR PURPOSE WAS TO COMPLETE THE DEBRIEFING ON HIS CUBA TRIP AND TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF US-GUYANESE RELATIONS. THIS MESSAGE COVERS ONLY THAT PART OF OUR CONVERSATION CONCERNING HIS CUBA TRIP. SEPTTEL ON OTHER SUBJECTS FOLLOWS.

2. I ASKED WILLS WHAT HIS TRIP HAD ACCOMPLISHED IN TERMS

OF GUYANESE-CUBAN RELATIONS. WILLS REPLIED THAT THE PRIMARY POLITICAL OBJECTIVE OF HIS TRIP HAD BEEN TO QUESTION THE CUBANS ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHEDDI JAGAN AND TO ENLIST THEIR HELP IN DEALING WITH JAGAN AND HIS PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP).

3. SPECIFICALLY, WILLS SAID HE HAD TOLD CASTRO THAT GOG LEADERS WERE AWARE THAT EACH TIME JAGAN TRAVELLED ABROAD HE USUALLY STOPPED OFF IN CUBA FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS. ALSO HE LET THEM KNOW THAT GOG WAS AWARE THAT GUYANESE EMPLOYEES OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WERE ALL MEMBERS OF THE PPP. HE THEN REQUESTED CASTRO'S ASSISTANCE IN PERSUADING JAGAN TO STOP ATTACKING THE GOG ON DOMESTIC ISSUES AND TO CURB HIS DENIGRATION OF BURNHAM'S BRAND OF SOCIALISM DURING HIS SPEAKING TOURS ABROAD. HE ALSO ASKED THAT CASTRO HELP PERSUADE THE SOVIET UNION TO HAVE A MORE EVEN-HANDED POLICY TOWARD THE PNC AND THE PPP.

4. CASTRO, WILLS SAID, APPEARED UNDERSTANDING AND AGREED TO HELP. HE HAD AGREED TO INTERCEDE WITH THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING JAGAN. WILLS COMMENTED THAT THE CUBANS HAD UNDERSCORED THE FACT THAT FROM A MARXIST/LENINIST STAND-POINT GUYANESE SOCIALISM LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED. WILLS DID NOT INDICATE WHAT HIS RESPONSE TO SUCH CRITICISM HAD BEEN. WILLS SAID HE HAD A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROMISE OF CUBAN HELP WITH JAGAN AND THE SOVIET UNION, BUT CHARACTERIZED THIS COMMITMENT AS THE IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS TRIP. IN PERSONAL TERMS, HE SAID, IT WOULD RAISE HIS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03      GEORGE 00308 01 OF 02 102037Z

STATURE AMONG PNC IDEALOGUES SUCH AS HUBERT JACK, DESMOND HOYTE AND THE RADICALS IN THE PARTY.

5. I ASKED WILLS CONCERNING THE STATE OF MORALE OF GUYANESE STUDENTS IN CUBA. HE SAID IT WAS TERRIBLE. ONE STUDENT HAD JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE. ONE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE CUBANS OR SOMEONE HAD BEEN HOLDING UP THEIR MAIL. HE INTENDED TO COLLECT ALL MAIL FOR THEM FROM THEIR FAMILIES AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND SEND IT THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO HIS AMBASSADOR WHO WOULD DISTRIBUTE IT TO THE GUYANESE STUDENTS AND SOLDIERS IN CUBA. (COMMENT: WILLS APPEARED TO BE REFERRING TO STUDENTS AND GUYANESE DEFENCE FORCE (GDF) PERSONNEL COLLECTIVELY AND I AM NOT CERTAIN WHETHER STUDENT OR SOLDIER COMMITTED SUICIDE. END COMMENT.)

6. WILLS TOLD ME TWO OF THE GDF TRAINEES HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR DUTY IN ANGOLA. HE HAD TOLD THEM TO FORGET THE IDEA AND REMINDED THEM THAT JONAS SAVIMBI WAS STILL FIGHTING IN THE BUSH IN ANGOLA. THAT, HE SAID, HAD DAMPENED

SOMEWHAT THEIR ADVENTUROUS "JOHN WAYNE" ATTITUDE. WILLS COMMENTED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA CONCERNING MILITARY TRAINING HAD BEEN SO MUCH OF A ONE-MAN SHOW IN THE PAST THE HE STILL DID NOT KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN GOING ON. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN THAT NO GUYANESE SOLDIERS HAD GONE TO ANGOLA, THOUGH HE DOUBTED THEY HAD GONE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01      GEORGE 00308 02 OF 02 102040Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----102041Z 129341 /41

O R 102000Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4180

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0308

EXDIS

7. COMMENT: WILLS' REFERENCE TO "ONE-MAN SHOW" IN PARA 6 WAS AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT BURNHAM, AS MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OVER-SEAS TRAINING AND SCHOLARSHIPS, HAD BEEN HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING MILITARY TRAINING IN CUBA WITHOUT TELLING WILLS MUCH ABOUT THE DETAILS. I PRESSED HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME GUYANESE MIGHT HAVE GONE TO ANGOLA WITH THE CUBANS, BUT HE INSISTED THAT HE KNEW NO MORE THAN HE HAD ALREADY TOLD ME, BUT HE INTENDED TO TRY TO PULL ALL THE THREADS OF GUYANESE-CUBAN RELATIONS TOGETHER.

8. WILLS' STATEMENT THAT THE POLITICAL PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION TO CUBA WAS RELATED TO THE GOG'S EFFORTS TO NEUTRALIZE JAGAN DOMESTICALLY AND VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION REFLECT THE CONCERN OF GOG LEADERS OVER JAGAN'S PERSISTENT JABBING ATTACKS AND HIS STATUS AS A CLIENT OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE DETERIORATING ECONOMY AND

CONSEQUENT EMERGING POLITICAL PROBLEMS ONE YEAR BEFORE  
GENERAL ELECTIONS ADD DEPTH TO GOG CONCERNS ABOUT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00308 02 OF 02 102040Z

THE OPPOSITION.  
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GEORGE00308  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770048-0691  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GEORGETOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwnf.tel  
**Line Count:** 180  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** aa5974c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 GEORGETOWN 274  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3356810  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL PURPOSE OF WILLS' TRIP TO CUBA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GY, CU, (WILLS, FREDERICK B)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/aa5974c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009